



**Quest As A Spiritual Practice:
Returning Home
5th Sunday After Pentecost
July 10, 2022 + 9:00 a.m.**

Congregational responses are in BOLD.

All are welcome to receive Jesus' unconditional gift of God's grace through the sacrament of Holy Communion. Regardless of your church membership or affiliation, all are encouraged to participate in communion or to come forward for a blessing.

Children of all ages are encouraged to worship with the whole community in Christ. Children's worship bags are available in the back of the sanctuary.

Page numbers that are listed are found in the front of the cranberry-colored hymnal on the bottom of the page. Hymn numbers are listed in bold, large print on the top of the page.

If you would like home communion, hospital visit, or a conversation with the pastor, please contact the church office at 715.687.4110 or at office@zionstratford.org or Interim Pastor Andrea Fluegel at 715.391.9311 or pastor@zionstratford.org.

Ministers: All the People of God through the love of Jesus and the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit

Interim Pastor: Andrea Fluegel

Administrative Assistant: Kathy Busche

Organists: Judy Polege, Marge Redetzke, Ryan Huther

Custodians: Gerry Viegut

Missionaries: Steven & Bethany Friberg, Tanzania

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Scripture Focus: As we bring our series on travel to a close, we contemplate what it means to return home. After stretching our spirits and our love to include more of the glorious creation and its peoples, we return to a home that will never be the same to us. We have returned with “guests”—memories of new friends and new perspectives. Perhaps we also return with new convictions to be more active and loving citizens of humanity right where we reside. Jesus says “abide in me” and follows that up with the commandment to love one another.

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/CENTERING

We Gather in Grace

ENTERING THE JOURNEY

INVOCATION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN *“Shall We Gather at the River”*

Hymn 423 vs. 1, 2, 4

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The shore of the Sea of Galilee was the place where Jesus called the disciples away from their familiar lives and roles into an adventure, a journey, that would change their lives and our world forever. After his crucifixion, the disciples returned there to the water—to what they knew. But can you imagine? It would never be the same again. And it was there that the resurrected Jesus met them again.

He offered them comfort through hospitality—a meal of fish on the shoreline. He meets us even now, at these waters. Let us pray:

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have not loved you with our whole hearts
and have not loved our neighbors as ourselves,
through what we have done and left undone.**

**Forgive us when we return to the familiar
in fear rather than promise.**

**Forgive us when we turn inward
rather than become the hosts you call us to be.**

Guide us as we seek to turn around toward greater love.

Lead us to travel in your ways.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one another with a moment of silence for reflection and individual confession.

Know this:

Jesus' welcome is always there.

He stokes the flames of love and invites us to gather 'round,
filling our emptiness, calming our fear, making home for all.

He is our constant companion,

inviting us to reach out to one another,

traveling together toward the Kin-dom of Love.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Glory to God. Amen!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

Sojourning God, your Spirit exists everywhere, on every path, inviting us to move with curiosity and compassion toward each other. May we see that our home paths are the unfamiliar paths for someone else. With renewed compassion, open our hearts for hospitality, so that in our welcoming, we will grow together in peace, expand our chances for love, and deepen understanding right where we are. Nudge and guide us, we pray. Amen.

We Hear the Word of God**FIRST READING****Psalm 36:5-9****SECOND READING****1 John 4:7-21****GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *“Alleluia”***Page 151****GOSPEL****Luke 10:25-37**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the tenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵ An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” ²⁷

He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.”²⁸ And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

²⁹ But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead.³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side.³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion.³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?”³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S TIME OF UNPACKING

THE WORD *“Bless Now, O God, the Journey”* Hymn 326 vs. 1, 2

SERMON

Pastor Andrea Fluegel

HYMN OF THE DAY *“Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty”*

Hymn 777 vs. 1-2, 5-6

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

Good and gracious God, you have placed your word of love in the heart of your church. Fill your church with compassion, that we bear the fruit of your healing mercy to a broken world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You created the earth with seeds sprouting up to new life. We pray for the flourishing of fruit trees and orchards, vines and bushes. Prosper the work of those who plant, tend, harvest, and gather. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Show us your ways and teach us your paths of justice and love. Raise up community and national leaders to challenge and dismantle societal structures that perpetuate ethnic, racial, and religious profiling and discrimination. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Come near to all in need. Orchestrate kindness in the face of cruelty, hope where there is despair, love in the face of neglect, comfort where there is death, and healing in illness. We now pray for the people, places and circumstances aloud with our voices or silently in our hearts... God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, giver of all good gifts: Look on your Church with grace and guide the minds of those who shall choose a pastor for this congregation, that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries. Holy Spirit reign down upon us and lead a faithful shepherd and servant to this gathered people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Turn this community toward neighbors in need. Bring aid and support to those who are poor, beaten down, abused, forgotten, silenced, or avoided. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the traveler, please protect us on the journey we are about to take, following your call to love and serve the neighbor. Support us with your strength and grace when we are weary. Help us to be mindful of your presence and love in times of stress and guide us to make our time together meaningful and memorable. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping. **Amen.**

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possession. Use us, and what we have gathered in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Holy Living God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of Grace,

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you.

Your delight filled the skies and land
with colors beyond the spectrum of our knowing.
Your playful creating offered up humankind
with such diversity that we cannot comprehend it.
Your breath left waters frothy and lungs exploding
with the power of life and prophetic utterances.

And yet we back away from such promise,
unable to claim your love as ours.

But here you are to meet us—speak to us—once again,
always faithful, always present
in this Body [the table]... in this Body [the people].

GREAT THANKSGIVING

And so, together we proclaim the praise-filled truth of your glory
along with all the saints:

Holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts!

Blest are they who come in your name!

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory!

Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

He proclaimed freedom for the bound,
justice for the oppressed, grace for the lost,
love for the prodigal.

By the power of this message
and the surprise of resurrection in the face of death,
the world is immersed again in the baptism of love
and redemption.

Through the life and ministry of Jesus,
we can imagine and live into a Kin-dom of love.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And so,
We remember...
We offer ourselves ...
We claim a new freedom in this truth...

**Christ has died, yet Christ is risen;
Christ has died, yet Christ is risen;
Christ will come again in glory
Hosanna in the highest!**

I invite you to raise your hands in the ancient Christian posture of prayer...

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the vision of your Reign realized,
so that we may be for the world your dream come true.

By your Spirit open us to each other and to the world,
making us one in You, through Christ,
in the power of Your redeeming Grace! **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Lamb of God"

Page 154

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

Hymn 674

"As the Grains of Wheat"

Hymn 465

BLESSING

PRAYER

Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

We Serve the World in God's Name

BENEDICTION

As you move into the journey of your life,
may you love the journey as a spiritual act,
always expanding your horizons,
inviting you to travel beyond your preconceptions,
and encouraging you ever to
embrace the infinite delight of this earth and its beings.

And may the Creator continue your unfolding,
the +Christ accompany your deeper knowing,
the Spirit enliven your growing,
until one day we all gather in the Kin-dom of Love.

CLOSING HYMN

“On Our Way Rejoicing”

Hymn 537

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love the neighbor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Zion Lutheran Church
Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Hands

213501 Legacy Street
Stratford, WI 54484-5908
715.687.4110 + <https://zionstratford.org>